

[54] **COMPUTER KEYBOARD WITH THUMB-ACTUATED EDIT KEYS**[76] Inventor: **Wendell E. Miller**, 1907 Crescent Dr., Warsaw, Ind. 46580[21] Appl. No.: **333,216**[22] Filed: **Apr. 5, 1989**[51] Int. Cl.⁵ **G06F 3/023**[52] U.S. Cl. **364/709.12; 400/488; 400/489; 400/486**[58] Field of Search **364/709.01, 709.12-709.16; 400/472, 476, 485-488, 489, 492**[56] **References Cited****U.S. PATENT DOCUMENTS**

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A keyboard (10) is provided for use with computer type devices. The keyboard (10) provides thumb-actuated keys (52, 54, 56, and 58) for controlling the cursor in all four directions without removing either hand (42a or 42b) from its home position (40a or 40b); and the keyboard (10) includes thumb-actuated keys (62, 64, 66, 68, 70, 72, 74, 76, and 78) for performing other text-control operations without removing either hand (42a or 42b) from its home position (40a or 40b). The character keys (18) are divided into two spaced-apart groups (28a and 28b); and a function-control pad (34), which includes function keys (38), is disposed in longitudinally-disposed and laterally-staggered rows (36a, 36b, and 36c), and is interposed between the groups (28a and 28b) of the character keys (18). Some of the function keys (90a and 90b) include heights (80), top-surface profiles (88a or 88b), and/or side-surface profiles (92a or 92b), as an aid in positioning the hands (42a and 42b) in the home row (20) and in home positions (40a and 40b), and as an aid in distinguishing the various rows (36a, 36b, and 36c) of function keys (38) by feel.

20 Claims, 3 Drawing Sheets